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Problems Arise With 2 Reagan Choices

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 — Edwin R. Meese 3d, director of President-elect Ronald Reagan's transition team, said today that Mr. Reagan would be ready to announce some of his Cabinet selections late this week or next week, but well-placed Republican sources said that complications had arisen with two major potential appointments.

At a morning news conference, Mr. Meese warned that the Soviet Union would be making "a grave miscalculation" by thinking that the Presidential transition would place the United States in a weakened military position. He also denied that the Reagan transition team had problems with conflict of interest because some of its members worked for private companies.

Mr. Meese said that the Cabinet selection process was "on schedule" and that Mr. Reagan would announce some of his choices "either at the end of this week or, it looks now, more probably next week." Other transition sources said that roughly a half dozen Cabinet selections were nearing completion of the normal clearance and legal procedures.

Problems With Wriston

But these sources said that some problems had developed in a discussion with Walter B. Wriston, chairman of Citicorp, whom Mr. Reagan had wanted as Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Wriston had served on Mr. Reagan's economic advisory panel during the campaign but had privately told some associates that he was hesitant about entering the Government.

Well-placed Republican sources said that the complications apparently centered on financial disclosure requirements and arrangements for avoiding conflicts of interest. Citibank, a subsidiary of the holding company that Mr. Wriston heads and holds stock in, has direct interests in New York City loan guarantees and claims against Iranian assets

as well as loans to the Chrysler Corporation. The Treasury Department deals with all those issues.

As of last January Mr. Wriston owned 104,499 shares of Citicorp stock, now worth \$2.25 million.

With uncertainty now about Mr. Wriston, well-placed Republican sources said that the President-elect and his top advisers were reconsidering the Treasury appointment. Among the new names being mentioned, they said, are Charles E. Walker, former Deputy Treasury Secretary, and Donald T. Regan, chairman of the board of Merrill Lynch Inc.

Problems With Haig

Republican sources also reported problems in the selection of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the former NATO commander who is now president of United Technologies Corporation. Two days ago, well-placed Republican sources reported that Mr. Haig was Mr. Reagan's choice for Secretary of State, after George P. Shultz, vice chairman of the Bechtel Corporation and a leading prospect for the post, told Mr. Reagan he did not wish to be considered.

John McCarroll, Mr. Haig's executive assistant, said that as of late this afternoon, Mr. Haig "has had no approaches on a Cabinet position from Reagan or his people."

In the past several days, several newspaper columns have appeared criticizing Mr. Haig's role in the Vietnam War, the Nixon White House and in the wiretapping cases against former Nixon Administration officials and reporters. Well-placed Republican sources reported that some influential Republicans had privately urged Mr. Reagan through intermediaries to reconsider approaching Mr. Shultz once again.

Other Selections

Late today, however, Pendleton James, who heads the Cabinet selection process for Mr. Reagan, said that there had been no change in Mr. Shultz's decision.

Sources said that six other top-level appointments remained on track as previously reported: Caspar W. Weinberger, vice president of Bechtel Corporation, for Secretary of Defense; William French Smith, Mr. Reagan's personal lawyer, for Attorney General; Drew Lewis, a Pennsylvania businessman and vice chairman of the Republican national committee, for Secretary of Transportation; Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania for Secretary of Health and Human Services; William J. Casey, a former intelligence officer and a New York tax lawyer, for Director of Central Intelligence, and Representative Dave Stockman of Michigan, for Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

They also reported that Elizabeth Dole, former member of the Federal Trade Commission, was under consideration for Secretary of Education, but that Clifford Hansen, former governor and senator from Wyoming, who had been the odds-on favorite to become Secretary of the Interior, may have had to withdraw for conflict of interest reasons. Mr. Hansen, who has a ranch in Wyoming, has a Government permit for grazing cattle on public land that he might have to give up to take the Cabinet post.

Mr. Meese and other top Reagan officials were at pains today to check spreading reports about Cabinet appointments, contending that the Reagan team was moving as rapidly as possible given the cumbersome checks needed for financial disclosure and legal arrangements to prevent conflicts of interests. Mr. Meese said the Reagan transition effort wanted these checks completed before Cabinet announcements were made.

Although he mentioned possible announcements late this week, other transition sources said the middle of next week is more likely.

Mr. Meese also went out of his way today to emphasize close cooperation with the Carter Administration on current foreign policy issues, particularly the crisis in Poland.